

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

REPORT

SUBJECT Flour Rationing in Tientsin

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. [ ] the people of Tientsin were requested to gather in their respective districts for meetings conducted by the street governments, the district public security stations, and the cooperatives. It was announced at the meetings that flour output in Communist China could not meet sales demands. During the national economic construction period, the number of people in large cities had increased; and many people in rural areas had begun to raise cotton, hemp, and other products instead of wheat. Reduction of the wheat-raising areas though did not cause a reduction in the amount of wheat raised because agricultural methods had been improved; only the increase in demand had caused the shortage. In an attempt to equalize the level of living of the rural and of the urban populations and to respond to the national call for increased productivity and economy of consumption, the Chinese Communist government had decided to ration flour as follows: 8 catties per month for each ordinary city dweller; 12 catties per month for each official, school teacher, and high school student; and 15 catties per month for each workman in the large government-operated plants. The officials explained that this system of rationing was different from the rationing during the Japanese occupation or the Chinese Nationalist administration; people would now be able to buy their ration of flour whenever they liked with the ration cards to be issued.

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2. [ ] after the meetings, the census police officers of the district police stations issued ration cards to every home. The cards were rectangular in shape, one by three inches in size; and the month for which they were valid was printed on them. The cards were to be returned to the police stations if not used, and it was prohibited for unused cards to be given to other persons.

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3. Most people in Tientsin believed that rationing was the result of the bad crops [ ]. Some people said privately that flour was being sent to the Soviet Union, although they did not dare say this in public.

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25 YEAR  
RE-REVIEW

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4. [ ] all rice and flour stores, except a certain number of rice and flour stores that the government had authorized to sell flour, were selling other foods instead of rice and flour. The restaurants and bakeries that needed flour were supplied with a fixed amount of flour equivalent to the amount they had used in preceding months. 25X1

[ ] Comment. There have been numerous reports in recent months [ ] of food shortages in Communist China caused by poor crops and shipments of food products to other countries [ ] More recently [ ] the Chinese Communists were rationing food in some areas of China. 25X1

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